

Valley Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
2600 Cherokee Place
Birmingham, Alabama
35216
205-879-0419

Email: office@vccbhm.org
Website: www.vccbhm.org
Office Hours: 8am-12pm
Monday through Friday

Fall Worship Schedule

Sunday, Nov 21
10:30 a.m.

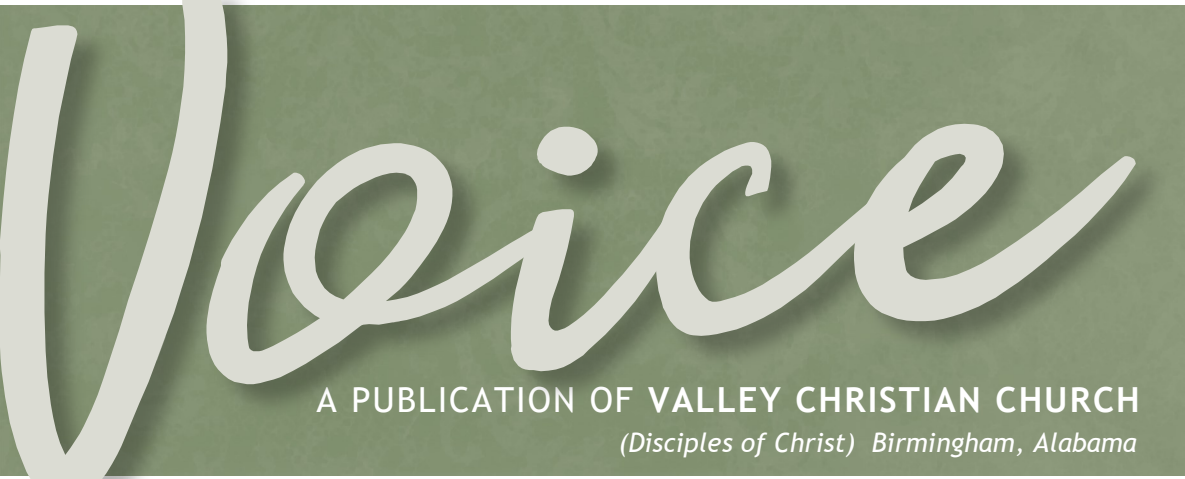
Sunday, Nov 28
10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Dec 5
10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Dec 12
10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- Nov 21—Board Meeting
- Nov 25 & 26—Office closed for Thanksgiving
- Nov 28—Hanging of the Greens
- Dec 1, 15 and 22 “Sounds of Advent” Carol Sing—optional lunch offsite
- Dec 4—Disciples Women Christmas Coffee
- Dec 5—Peace Sunday



From the Pastor's Desk

Coffee and a Story

As several of you know by now, this past Sunday, the day we gather to worship during Sabbath, my maternal grandfather died at the age of eighty-nine. He had been in ill health for quite some time, so his death was not unexpected, but his decline at the end was very sudden, and I had not anticipated it.

By the time you read this, I am likely to be in Kansas City with my family, or en route to Kansas—we are planning a Friday funeral for my grandfather, and I am traveling back to Birmingham on Saturday so that I can be back in worship this upcoming Sunday to wrap up our five-week sermon series on peacemaking. While I am away with my family, I know that you will be in the caring hands of your respective shepherd-group elders.

We are also almost at both the Thanksgiving holiday and, that following Sunday, the beginning of a new church year with the start of Advent. Carrie, Sadie, and I will be celebrating Thanksgiving with Carrie's family in western North Carolina, and we will leave Wednesday afternoon and I will return on Saturday so that we can begin the Advent season together on Sunday!

I am very excited to finally share with you my Advent sermon series, which like my Lenten series earlier this year, is twinned with the “Gifts Given and Received” theme of our seasonal devotional book, which should be available to all of you very soon. I think our ability to express ourselves spiritually in the written word like this is one area in which we as a smaller congregation punch above our proverbial weight, and I have been looking forward for weeks now to reading each day's devotion during Advent. I am grateful to each of our devotional writers, and to Lola Kiser for arriving at the theme and editing our contributions.

In the meantime, I hope to see you on Sunday, online or in-person, as we add to our devotional theme this year with an Advent sermon series on the theme of gift-giving as part of our spiritual preparation for Christ's wondrous birth:

Advent 2021: “Gifts Given & Received: Cultivating an Advent of Generosity”

November 28: “The First Gift,” Genesis 4:3-16
December 5: “Bronze Without Tin,” Mark 12:41-44
December 12: “Every Good Gift,” James 1:13-18
December 19: “A Matter of Equality,” 2 Corinthians 8:1-15
December 24, 4:00 pm: “A Sign Unto You.” Luke 2:1-20
December 26: “Christmas Continues,” Luke 2:25-38

Christ's and yours,
Pastor Eric

November 16 2021

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Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Please pray for our Pastor, Eric Atcheson and his family. His grandfather passed away after a long illness. The service will be on Friday the 19th in Kansas.
- Please pray for our faithful member Carol Speed. She had surgery last week and came home Monday. She is feeling better.
- Please pray for Benjamin Devine who had his adenoids removed and his ears drained. Hopefully his ear infections will stop and he can recover.
- We have a joy that our faithful member Peggi Zinser is back at church and we are so glad to have her after her shoulder ordeal.
- Please pray for Joel Kramme, Lola Kiser's niece's husband. He needs our prayers right now.
- Rejoice in Clarence Seller's recovery from COVID-19



The First White House of the Confederacy

AAA will visit this Historic Home in Montgomery on Wednesday, December 8th. We will leave the church at 9:15am for an 11:00am – 12:00pm tour of the home decorated with Christmas decorations of the time. We will see what homes looked like pre-colored blinking lights and nodding reindeer on front lawns. We will take a step back in time to December 20th 1860 and the turmoil of the State of Alabama, along with other Southern States, as they seceded from the United States. Montgomery was chosen as the capital because of the location overlooking the Alabama River and the Federal Road that led from Georgia to Mobile, both good for transportation facilities by railroad and steamboat. Jefferson Davis, the first President of the Confederacy with his wife Varina and her children set up housekeeping and lived in the house during the Summer of 1861 before moving to the new capital in Richmond, Virginia after living in the house only a few months. We will then enjoy lunch at the Farmer's Market restaurant at 12:30pm before caravanning back to the church.



Thanksgiving Offering

The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ). Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. Your gift to this offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our fifteen colleges and universities as well as our seven seminaries and divinity houses. We will be receiving our offering on November 21st and 28th.

Toys for GBM

Because of COVID, again this year we will be collecting Walmart \$20 or \$25 gift cards instead of toys for children sponsored by GBM. You may purchase a gift card at any Walmart or you may make a donation to the church and we will buy the gift cards. Mark your check for GBM gift cards. (the deadline to have the money and gift cards in is Nov.28th.



Preparing for Advent

The Hanging of the Greens will be on Monday, November 22 at 10:00am and the Blessing of the Greens will be on November 28, morning worship, the First Sunday in Advent. Join us as we prepare and then enter into this Advent Season for 2021 and begin the New Year of the Church. Thanks, John Gregory

Sounds of Advent Carol-Sings Return

You are warmly invited to be a part of the return of our Sounds of Advent carol-sing tradition. While we could not offer this worship and fellowship opportunity last year due to the winter wave of covid-19, we are excited to be bringing it back! Join us at 11:30 am at the church on December 1, 15, and 22 (all Wednesdays) for Advent carol-singing and a brief accompanying Bible study led by Pastor Eric. Our first carol-sing, on December 1, will be led by John Neville on the piano, and Pastor Eric may even bring out his saxophone for one of the later carol-sings! We hope to see you there!